

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 52nd Legislature (2009)

3 HOUSE BILL 2004

By: Wright (Harold)

4
5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 An Act relating to schools; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
8 Section 6-185, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 295,
9 O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008, Section 6-185),
10 which relates to competencies and methods to be
11 incorporated into teacher preparation system; adding
12 mental health training; amending 70 O.S. 2001,
13 Section 24-100.1, which relates to prevention of
14 violence services; requiring mental health issues
15 training for certain school employees; authorizing
16 certain school employees to make mental health
17 referrals for students; providing for liability;
18 providing an effective date; and declaring an
19 emergency.

20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

21 SECTION 1. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 6-185, as
22 amended by Section 1, Chapter 295, O.S.L. 2003 (70 O.S. Supp. 2008,
23 Section 6-185), is amended to read as follows:

24 Section 6-185. A. The following competencies and methods shall
be incorporated into the programs approved by the Oklahoma
Commission for Teacher Preparation for the competency-based teacher
preparation system provided for the Oklahoma Teacher Preparation
Act:

1 1. The teacher preparation system shall include, but not be
2 limited to, the following competencies:

- 3 a. excellence in the arts and sciences,
- 4 b. an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter to be
5 taught,
- 6 c. the ability to identify and cultivate talent and
7 potential in students,
- 8 d. an understanding of child and human development,
- 9 e. teaching skills developed through a variety of
10 learning experiences,
- 11 f. the ability to interact effectively with all students,
- 12 g. skills necessary for working with parents, guardians
13 and custodians of students in the education process,
- 14 h. skills necessary to involve the community in
15 education,
- 16 i. skills to foster teamwork within and among schools,
- 17 j. for administrators, skills necessary to be an
18 effective leader of a school or school district, and
- 19 k. skills in effective classroom management and student
20 discipline;

21 2. The preservice program shall include the following methods
22 to achieve the competencies listed in paragraph 1 of this
23 subsection:
24

- a. require teacher candidates to study arts and sciences at the undergraduate level,
- b. require secondary and elementary/secondary teacher candidates to have undergraduate majors, or their equivalents, in a subject area, and require teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary, and special education to have subject area concentrations which allow qualification as a generalist,
- c. require teacher candidates to study the individuality of students, the capacity of students to learn and the process of learning,
- d. integrate curriculum from other disciplines with the education curriculum,
- e. require teacher candidates to have training experiences and personal contact with parents, guardians or custodians of school-age children,
- f. require teacher candidates to have community involvement experience,
- g. structure courses so as to require teamwork activities, and
- h. require teacher candidates to study, in existing coursework, substance abuse symptoms identification and prevention, mental illness symptoms identification

1 and mental health issues, classroom management skills,
2 and classroom safety and discipline techniques;

3 3. The Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall not
4 require more than a four-year program of one hundred twenty-four
5 (124) semester hours to complete a teacher education degree.

6 Provided, any program approved by the State Board of Education prior
7 to July 1, 1995, which requires more hours may continue to require
8 such hours. Any program approved prior to July 1, 1995, which
9 requires more than one hundred twenty-four (124) semester hours for
10 a teacher education degree shall implement requirements for this
11 program without additional hours.

12 B. It is the intent of the Legislature that institutions of
13 higher education which offer teacher education programs hold such
14 programs accountable for meeting the licensure and certification
15 competencies approved by the State Board of Education. It is the
16 intent of the Legislature that the teacher education programs
17 incorporate a curriculum to achieve the competency-based system and
18 include integration of the teacher preparation curricula with the
19 arts and sciences departments curricula. Each institution of higher
20 education which seeks accreditation or approval for its teacher
21 education program shall develop an institution plan which follows
22 the State Board of Education competencies for licensure and
23 certification. In developing such institution plans, the higher
24 education institution shall establish a process which seeks

1 information and input from teacher preparation faculty, faculty from
2 arts and sciences and other programs and disciplines which are
3 appropriate, students within the teacher education program,
4 teachers, administrators, parents, guardians or custodians of
5 students and business and community leaders. Each institution shall
6 hold an annual public forum subject to the provisions of the
7 Oklahoma Open Meeting Act regarding the content of the institution
8 plan at which public comment on either the institution's teacher
9 preparation plan or program is solicited. The institution's plan
10 shall be accessible to any interested party under the Oklahoma Open
11 Records Act. No institution of higher education's teacher education
12 program shall be approved by the Commission unless the institution
13 plan has been approved by that institution's governing board.
14 Initial institution plans shall be filed with the Oklahoma
15 Commission for Teacher Preparation by January 1, 1997, and as
16 required by the Commission thereafter. The Oklahoma State Regents
17 for Higher Education may facilitate the development of institution
18 plans to assist institutions of higher education.

19 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY 70 O.S. 2001, Section 24-100.1, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 Section 24-100.1 A. It is the intent of the Legislature to
22 encourage and assist the public schools of this state to address
23 school violence through an emphasis on prevention. Preventative
24 services shall be encouraged through greater access to mental health

1 counseling and social services for students. In order to make
2 licensed professional counselors and licensed social workers more
3 available and accessible on site, school districts may:

4 1. Contract with and allocate space for nonprofit agencies or
5 other community-based service providers for the appropriate
6 personnel and services; and

7 2. Seek any available funding, including the use of Medicaid
8 funds for students who are Medicaid eligible through targeted case
9 management, and any other funding which may be available for related
10 services; ~~and~~

11 ~~3. Encourage the State Board of Education to allow for the use~~
12 ~~of licensed professional counselors and licensed social workers in~~
13 ~~addition to academic counselors.~~

14 B. School administrators, teachers, and other school employees
15 shall be trained to recognize, accommodate, and assist students with
16 mental health issues.

17 C. School administrators, teachers, and other school employees
18 may make referrals or assist in referring students to licensed
19 mental health professionals for mental health screening or
20 treatment. A school administrator, teacher, or other school
21 employee shall incur no liability as a result of injury arising from
22 any acts or omissions of the school administrator, teacher, or other
23 school employee in referring or failing to refer a student as
24 provided for in this subsection.

1 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2009.

2 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
3 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
4 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
5 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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